reinforcing box (4) which supports an orifice (O) for the emergence of the airbag in an instrument panel (V).

Claim 5 (amended). The airbag apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the second mechanism component (M2) of the coupling mechanism (M) and coverings thereof are led through pockets (13), which are integrated in an extruded profile of the airbag housing (G), and, on the opposite side, through putaways of the reinforcing box (4).

Claim 7 (amended). The airbag apparatus according to claim 1, characterized by at least one embodiment illustrated in the figures.

Claim 8 (amended). A mounting method for an airbag apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the mechanism (M) contains a first mechanism component (M1) which is coupled firmly to the airbag module (B), so that the airbag module (B) forms, together with the first mechanism component (M1), a unit ready for installation, and contains a second mechanism component (M2) which is coupled firmly to the covering device (K), and in that, during or after the installation of the airbag apparatus (A) behind a vehicle interior trim panel, the first mechanism component (M1) is

brought into an active position with respect to the second mechanism component (M2).

Claim 10 (amended). An operating method for an airbag apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the first mechanism component (M1) and the second mechanism component (M2) are coupled actively to one another only by means of a release of the airbag apparatus.